

## CLAIMS

1. A method for detecting a perilymph fistula, which comprises detecting the existence of Cochlin in body fluid existing in the middle ear.
2. The method according to claim 1, which comprises detecting the existence of Cochlin in body fluid existing in the middle ear of a patient likely to have a perilymph fistula, and using the detected existence of Cochlin as an indicator of the possibility of a perilymph fistula.
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the detection of the existence of Cochlin is carried out by detecting the existence of a protein consisting of the N-terminal fragment of Cochlin.
4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the existence of Cochlin is detected by an immunological method.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the immunological method is carried out using an anti-Cochlin N-terminal fragment antibody.
6. The method according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the immunological method is carried out by using an antibody which recognizes an antigenic determinant contained in an amino acid sequence portion corresponding to amino acids at positions 36 to 127 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 of the sequence listing.
7. The method according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the immunological method is carried out by using an anti-Cochlin N-terminal fragment antibody characterized in that it recognizes an antigenic determinant contained in a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, 5, 6, or 7 of the sequence listing.
8. An anti-Cochlin N-terminal fragment antibody, which is characterized in that it recognizes an antigenic determinant contained in a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, 5, 6, or 7 of the sequence listing.

9. A reagent for detection of a perilymph fistula, which comprises an anti-Cochlin antibody.

10. The reagent for detection of a perilymph fistula according to claim 9, wherein the anti-Cochlin antibody is an anti-Cochlin N-terminal fragment antibody.

11. The reagent for detection of a perilymph fistula according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the anti-Cochlin antibody recognizes an antigenic determinant contained in an amino acid sequence portion corresponding to amino acids at positions 36 to 127 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 of the sequence listing.

12. The reagent for detection of a perilymph fistula according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the anti-Cochlin antibody is an anti-Cochlin N-terminal fragment antibody characterized in that it recognizes an antigenic determinant contained in a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, 5, 6, or 7 of the sequence listing.

13. A reagent kit for detection of a perilymph fistula, which comprises the reagent of detection of a perilymph fistula according to any one of claims 9 to 12.